RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 21th February, 1999/6th Phalguna, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock; **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

पानी की बढ़ती हुई मांग

*41. **श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:†**
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कृषि, उद्योग के निरंतर विकास तथा बढ़ती आबादी के कारण देश में पानी की आवश्यकता में बढ़ोतरी होती जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत दशक के दौरान पानी की आवश्यकता में अनुमानतः कितनी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ग) पानी की वर्तमान आवश्यकता की तुलना में आगामी दस वर्षों में इसमें अनुमानतः कितनी वृद्धि होगी;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इस आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए पानी के स्रोतों के उचित दोहन हेतु कोई योजना बनाने पर विचार किया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो किस-किस स्रोत से कितना-कितना पानी प्राप्त करने का लक्ष्य है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) से (ङ) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

जन संख्या में वृद्धि और कृषि एवं उद्योगों के निरन्तर विकास के कारण देश में प्रत्येक वर्ष जल की मांग में उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि हो रही है। वर्ष 1990 में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लिए जल की आवश्यकता 552 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (बी सी एम) थी और अनुमान लगाया गया है कि यह आवश्यकता सन 2000 तक 750 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर हो जाएगी। दीर्घकालीन परिप्रेक्ष्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि वर्ष 2025 तक विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लिए कुल 1050 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (बी सी एम) जल की आवश्यकता होगी।

जल की बढ़ती हुई मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने विभिन्न नीतियां एवं कार्यक्रम बनाए हैं। इनमें राष्ट्रीय जल नीति (1987) को अद्यतन करना, अधिशेष जल वाले बेसिनों से जल की कमी वाले क्षेत्रों को जल का हस्तांतरण करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय परिप्रेक्ष्य तैयार करना, विभिन्न उद्देश्यों के लिए जल के कुशल एवं मितव्ययी उपयोग को बढ़ावा देना और उसका संरक्षण करना तथा चल रही वृहद एवं मध्यम सिंचाई और बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजनाओं को शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिए वर्ष 1996-97 से त्वरित सिंचाई लाभ कार्यक्रम को लागू करना शामिल है। सरकार भूजल के पुनर्भरण के लिए वर्षाजल एकत्र करने (रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग) तथा वाटरशेड प्रबन्धन को भी बढ़ावा दे रही है।

जल संसाधन स्कीमों की आयोजना करना, उन्हें तैयार करना तथा उनका कार्यान्वयन करने का उत्तरदायित्व राज्य सरकारों का है। पंचवर्षीय योजना के प्रारंभ से ही उपलब्ध जल संसाधनों का दोहन करने के लिए विभिन्न कदम उठाए गए हैं। अनेक छोटे और बड़े बांधों का निर्माण किया गया तथा इसके परिणामस्वरूप पंचवर्षीय योजना के आरंभ के समय कुल भंडारित जल क्षमता 15.64 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर से बढ़कर वर्ष 1995 में 177 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर हो गई। इसके अतिरिक्त 75 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर अतिरिक्त जल भंडारण की क्षमता उन बांधों से सृजित होगी जो निर्माण की विभिन्न अवस्थाओं में हैं। इसके अलावा निर्माणाधीन/विचाराधीन बांधों से 132 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर अतिरिक्त जल भंडारण क्षमता सृजित होगी।

वर्ष 2025 के लिए 1050 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर अनुमानित (प्रोजेक्टेड) कुल जल की आवश्यकता को लगभग 690 बिलियन क्यूबकि मीटर उपयोग योग्य सतही जल संसाधनों तथा लगभग 360 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर दोहन योग्य भूजल संसाधनों का पूर्ण उपयोग कर पूरा किया जा सकता है।

श्री राजमोहिन्दर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश की धरती सोमों से भरी हुई है। हिमालय पहाड़ से बहुत से दरिया, नदियां और नाले निकलते हैं। लेकिन उनका हमने ठीक ढंग से उपयोग नहीं किया। मैं पंजाब की बात करना चाहूंगा। पार्टिशन के बाद इन्डो-पाकिस्तान समझौते में दरिया रावी,व्यास और सतलुज के पानी का मूल्य पाकिस्तान को दे दिया और उस पानी पर हमारा अधिकार हो गया। लेकिन दरिया रावी, दरिया सतलुज और दरिया व्यास का संगम जहां पर होता है, हरिकेपत्तन पर, वहां से पाकिस्तान को बेइन्तहा पानी जा रहा है। इसका हमने अभी तक प्रयोग नहीं किया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं

† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया।

कि कितनी देर में इस पानी का ठीक प्रयोग किया जाएगा जिससे पाकिस्तान में जो हमारा पानी जा रहा है वह न जाए, यह मैं पूछना चाहता हूं?

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति महोदय, नदी के जल का उपयोग करने में भारत ने स्वतंत्रता के बाद बहुत प्रगति की है। उस समय...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't go into the details. Give a specific reply to his question.

श्री सोमपाल: इसका समुचित उत्तर यह है कि यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय विवाद से संबंधित है। इसके लिए अलग से सूचना की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी। यहां यह जो प्रश्न पूछा गया है यह जल की आवश्यकता। उसकी उपलब्धताऔर उसके उपयोग के संबंध में है। इससे संबंधित अगर कुछ पूछना चाहेंगे तो मैं उसका उत्तर दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: आप इस पर रेलेवेंट सवाल कीजिए।

श्री राजमोहिन्दर सिंह: रेलेवेंट सवाल करूंगा, पानी के ऊपर करूंगा।

श्री सभापति: सवाल पानी के ऊपर नहीं है। जो आपने सवाल किया है....

श्री राजमोहिन्दर सिंह: मैं नया आदमी हूं। मुझे कुछ न कुछ बोलने दीजिए। पानी के बारे में सवाल करूंगा।

सभापति जी, मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि जो हमारा प्रदेश पंजाब है; वेस्टर्न यू०पी० और हरियाणा, यहां पर ग्राउंड से पानी रोज निकल रहा है और यहां पर हर साल पानी का लेवल नीचे हो रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति है कि औंदे औंदे 15-20 साल में इन तीन चार प्रदेशों में यह जमीन बंजर हो जाएगी — इसका आपके पास क्या जवाब है?

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य का यह कथन बिल्कुल सही है कि दीर्घकालीन मानीटरिंग के बाद जल संसाधन मंत्रालय और राज्यों के जल संसाधन मंत्रालय और विभागों ने यह देखा है कि भूमिगत जल भयावह गति से नीचे जा रहा है और कुल मिलाकर भारत के कुछ क्षेत्रों में तीन से चार मीटर जल औसतन नीचे गया है। खासतौर से पंजाब और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश, जिन क्षेत्रों की चर्चा माननीय सदस्य कर रहे है, वहां पर भी भूमिगत जल स्तर गिरा है। इसके लिए आवश्यक उपाय किए जा रहे हैं, जिसमें वर्षा के जल को संग्रह करके भूमिगत जल के स्रोतों का पुनः भरण करने की राष्ट्र व्यापी योजना है। अभी अभी योजना आयोग ने भी एक दीर्घकालीन 75800 करोड़ रुपए की इसी तरह की राष्ट्रीय पनधारा योजना को स्वीकृति दी है। उसके माध्यम से इस समस्या के हल खोजने के समुचित उपाय किए जा रहे है।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr Chairman, Sir, the response of the Government really represents certain cold facts and they do not go into the heart of the matter. I want to raise a basic issue here. Now, we are aware of the fact that the total availability of water in this country — I am talking about groundwater and surface water—is 1150 billion cubic metres.

That is the total availability of water. The Government, in its response, has said that by the year 2005, the total internal requirement of the country—I am talking about domestic use, agricultural use and industrial use—would be 1,050 billion cubic metres. That will be the total requirement, and the total availability is, at present, 1,150 billion cubic metres. But the Government should have pointed out that the availability of 1,150 billion cubic metres of water is not uniformly spread throughout the country. Take, for example, the Brahmaputra basin. Sir, 29 per cent of 1,150 BMC is available in the Brahmaputra basin whereas the Brahmaputra basin covers only six per cent of India's total area, and only three per cent of India's total population lives in that basin. The real requirement is in the South. The real requirement is in the West. How are they going to uniformly distribute it? For that, they need dams. The Government has been talking about the Thein Dam. It has not been completed till date. The ground water level is going to deplete, on an annual basis, between one to three metres. Every year, when there is monsoon, the water goes to Pakistan. What is the Government doing about it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is again a repetition.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is very well to say, Sir, that this is the availability, this is

our requirement. But what are the concrete steps that the Government is taking to harness these resources?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, the hon. Member is right when he observes that this is the average availability which we have talked of, and the average requirement and the statistics are prepared like that. But, given the differences and diversities in the rain precipitation over the whole land which varies from 100 millimetres to 150 millimetres in one area to about 11,500 millimetres in Cherrapunji—there are several zones. We have never said that it is equitably and equally distributed. There are attempts—there is not one strategy but there is a multipronged strategy—to explore underground water, to utilise the river flows, to collect rain water and make it percolate down to fill underground water aquifer and utilise them in a judicious way, and also to come out with ways to make more economic and judicious use of water and reduce its wastage. All these are parts of our overall strategy, and there are so many details. That will take time, but I can furnish them, if the Member wants. The whole strategy of water resource management is around all these multipronged steps.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, since long, there was a proposal to link up Ganga and Cauvery for optimum utilisation of water, for both drinking and irrigation purposes. Is there any proposal for linkage with Brahmaputra also? Is there any such proposal under the consideration of the Government? That is number one. Number two, there was also a suggestion to have a national river water policy (i) to make optimum utilisation of water and (ii) to end the disputes. Is any such thing being pursued by the Government? If so, at what stage is it?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, as I said earlier, there are shortages in certain river basins, and we have identified the river basins which are short of water, and there are river basins which have excess availability of water. There is a scheme to transfer, from the abundant basins to the scarce basins, some water, and this resource also has been identified. The additional resources, as I said earlier, which are assessed to be 224 billion cubic metres can be transferred from the abundant basins to the scarce basins. And this is one of the strategies.

In the Southern parts, we have already identified 17 such links, and feasibility studies have already been conducted. Schemes are being formulated, and, with the availability of resources, all these linkages are proposed to be made functional so that water can be transferred from the abundant basins, where there is excess, to the scarce basins, where it is required.

So far as the inter-State disputes are concerned, these are all being monitored by the Government, and, during the last year, in August, the hon. Prime Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States, who are involved in this, and we are trying to have some solution. And some solution, in parts, has already been found, and they are being implemented.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: It is a fact that water resources are scarce and they are depleting. But there are countries in the Middle-East, especially Israel, which have improved management and usage of water by using drip irrigation, by developing special technology for usage of sour water for citrus fruits. Since drip irrigation is very capital intensive, I would like to know whether the Government has any plans—because it reduces the usage of water to 10 to 15 per cent—to subsidise drip irrigation. This is part (a) of my question.

I would also like to know whether any investment has been made in the research for the usage of sour water to develop special strains for citrus fruits, as is being done in Israel.

SHRI SOMPAL: It is correct that the latest techniques, like drip irrigation and sprinkler sets make a more economic and judicious use of water. The water requirement is not reduced to 10 to 15 per cent. But it will be surely reduced to 25 to 30 per cent if drip irrigation is used. The Government has already got a Subsidy Scheme wherein we give 70 per cent subsidy for drip irrigation to normal farmers, and 90 per cent to women farmers and weaker sections for using this technique. Through various Centrally—sponsored and Central Sector schemes, States allocate some of their budget for this. We have found that it has a good impact on agriculture. So far as development of strains and research on the salinity or brackish water used and the capacity of the plants to stand such hard water is concerned, we have identified a number of plants and conjunctive use of water is being promoted and research has already been successfully completed. But it depends on the incidence of salinity and also on the capability of the plant to take the stress. Sometimes, there are plants which neutralise any level of salinity. So, all this research is available and this is being implemented.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: We are not only short of water, but whatever little water we have, that is also being polluted all the time. Even in big cities, untreated sewage is being released into the rivers. All our rivers have become huge open drains. Firstly, will the Government consider a time-bound programme to require all cities to instal sewage treatment plants to take care of all the sewage? Secondly, is it a fact that in Japan water is recycled 17 times? Will the Government consider going into the matter and see how far water supplied in the cities can be re-cyled?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, pollution is also assuming dangerous proportions. And the Government is in the full know of this phenomenon. We are undertaking several steps, including sewage treatment plant installation. There is the Gange Action Plan and there is a National River Action Plan to cleanse all the rivers. Then there is the incidence of heavy metals polluting even the undergound water. Adequate steps are being taken in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health. The Water Resources Ministry is doing its own bit and the problem is being studied in all its dimensions and various steps are being taken. It is a matter of detail. We are aware of the problem, and we have initiated effective steps.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Sir, my question has not been answered. My question was in two parts, and neither of them has been answered. My question was this. Will the Government consider having a time-bound programme to insist on having sewage treatment plants in all the cities?

SHRI SOMPAL: All the plans which are formulated, have a time-frame. Usually, all the plans have a time-frame.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: In India everything seems to be timeless, *sanatan*. We dirty the Ganga and other rivers, and then we say that there is a Ganga Action Plan. If you stop dirtying the Ganga, it will not need cleansing. Unless and until you have these treatment plants, nothing will happen. Money will just go down the drain The second part was about recycling of water. I would like to know whether the Government is studying the issue.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, there are technologies which can cleanse water and recycling can be done. But, unfortunately, for want of resources, high-tech treatment systems are not available with us. We are studying the possibility and, surely, they will find a place in the future plans.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of villages in the country which have no protected drinking water sources.

Is there any time-bound plan of action to supply protected drinking water to all the villages?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, provision of drinking water to all the rural areas as well as the urban areas in part of the National Drinking Water Plan and we are taking steps to provide clean drinking water to all the rural areas within a time-frame. There is a plan which has already been okayed by the Planning Commission and it is being implemented.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, in the second paragraph of his reply the hon. Minister has described national perspective for transfer of water from surplus basins. The hon. Minister was pleased to state that about 220 Billion cubic metres of surplus water was available. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are these basins or sub-basins from where feasible links can be provided for transferring surplus water from one basin to another basin. I would like to have that information.

The second part is about the efficient and economic use of water which he is talking about. Whenever it is convenient he describes this. I don't know whether any mechanism is available for finding out that the State Governments are following the policies which have been agreed to. If necessary, a meeting of Chief Minister should be called. Efficient use of water is one of the main things on which emphasis will have to be laid. Then he will have to do monitoring to see that these things are implemented according to the decisions which they have arrived at.

There is one more thing. There is a possibility for increasing the live capacity of the storages. In fact, I have written to the hon. Minister about it. There are certain states where new dams are being constructed in the upper reaches. If it happens, it does not mean any new addition to the storages which are available. He has to look into the matter and, according to the policy of the Government, some kind of directives will have to be given to the States where such activities are going on. When they construct a new dam in the upper reaches the dam down below becomes totally useless. So, some kind of a directive is necessary. That is why I asked for an appointment with him so that I will be able to give him all the details.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a long list of the river basins which we have identified. I can read it out.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: You can supply it to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't read it out. You can supply it to him. That is what he says.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, he has asked whether we have identified the river basins which have abundant water. Indus-Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghana system, the Brahmaputra-Barak, Ganga-Brahamputra-Barak, Godavari-Krishna-Godavari, Subarnarekha, Brahmani, Vaitarani, etc., are there. It is a long list. I can supply it to the hon. Member. Their water is available for transfer.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I would like to know from where feasible links are available.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, I can provide this information to all the hon. Members.

So far as the construction of dams is concerned, dams are constructed always on the sites where it is feasible and usually it is in the upper reaches. But an equitable distribution is ensured. There are certain reservations and objections by some States which are co-sharing the river flows. As I have already informed the hon'ble House through you, Sir, earlier, we are trying to resolve such disputes. But an equitable distribution is the concern of the Central Government and we are trying to ensure that all these states do share it equitably.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, the Brahmaputra Board, the very purpose for which we have put this question today, was constituted more than a decade ago with the purpose of solving some of these problems which have been referred to now. May I know from the Minister what the progress has been in the last ten years about the proper use of Brahmaputra *vis-a-vis* drainage and other things in othe parts of the country?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, I require a separate notice for giving this particular information.

Prime Minister's visit to Trinidad and Tobago

*42. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has, recently, paid a visit to Trinidad & Tobago;

(b) if so, the details of discussions the Head of Trinidad & Tobago had with the Prime Minister and other Members of the Indian Delegation;

(c) the outcome of the talks held; and

(d) to what extent the relationship with this country has been further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Prime Minister of India paid an official visit to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 8-9 February, 1999 at the invitation of the Hon'ble Basdeo Panday, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. During the visit the Prime Minister held detailed discussions with President Arthur N R Robinson and Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. Both sides agreed to deepen the traditional cultural links between the people of the two countries and to expand the economic content of the relationship. An agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed between the two countries during the visit. This agreement would provide an impetus to the flow of investments, technology, trade and services between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the area of Low Cost Housing was also signed. The MoU aims at promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and assistance in the field of housing and human settlements development.

The two leaders reviewed the progress of bilateral agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister Basdeo Panday to India in January, 1997. They agreed that there was great potential for intensifying cooperation for mutual benefit. Trinidad and Tobago sought technical assistance from India in areas such as small scale business development, planning, wood work, dairy development, aqua culture, film making and information technology. In the spirit of cooperation among developing countries and India's commitment to this cause, Prime Minister agreed to extend technical assistance and share Indian expertise in these areas.

During the visit, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation in Port of Spain. A Low Cost Housing Support Centre was inaugurated by Prime Minister and Government of India gifted machinery for the Centre to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The visit of Prime Minister was symbolic of our interest in further strengthening ties with overseas Indian communities. It highlighted cultural commonality and perspectives for mutually beneficial economic links, including prospects of Trinidad emerging as a point for expanding links with Caribbean and Latin American countries.

SHRI ABANI ROY: Now, it has come out in the newspapers that by 2005 Trinidad and Tobago will be the largest